

“(B) such reasonable construction permit requirements as may be required by the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the National Park Service.

“(3) The decision to construct the World War II memorial at the dedicated Rainbow Pool site, decisions implementing this subsection, and decisions regarding the design for the World War II memorial are final and conclusive and shall not be subject to administrative or judicial review.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EVANS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1696.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. STUMP asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago this month, the original authorization for a memorial on the Mall honoring the World War II veterans was signed into law, and still construction has not yet begun. H.R. 1696 will be the sixth bipartisan piece of legislation Congress has sent to the White House for approval, attempting to move the process along.

Over the past 6 years, 22 public hearings have been held on the site and design of the memorial in compliance with the Commemorative Works Act. The memorial site and design have received the endorsements of the Historic Preservation Officer of the District of Columbia and four endorsements from the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board. The Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capitol Planning Commission has each rendered approval for the memorial five times. This site was approved by both the Secretary of the Interior and the President. And still construction has not begun.

Two other very important things have also been happening since Congress first authorized this memorial. Through the leadership and hard work of former Senator Bob Dole and Academy Award winning actor Tom Hanks, the memorial fund has now raised over \$170 million. There are no taxpayer funds involved in this memorial. Financial support has come in from half a million Americans, hundreds of corporations and foundations, dozens of civic, fraternal and professional organizations, 48 state legislatures, over 1,000 schools, and numerous veterans groups representing millions of veterans.

Unfortunately, something else has been happening since the memorial was

authorized, Mr. Speaker. Millions of World War II veterans have gone to their eternal rest. According to VA statistics, 3 million World War II veterans have died since this memorial was authorized in 1993.

Once begun, construction of the memorial will take approximately 30 months. In that time, nearly 1 million additional World War II veterans will pass away. Each day of delay tragically adds 1,100 more. And still construction has not begun.

Why? Because a small group of opponents are desperately using litigation to challenge prior decisions and delay construction so they can drag the memorial back through a mind-numbing bureaucracy. The opponents are not satisfied by more than 20 public meetings over the past 6 years resulting in endorsements and approval of all agencies required by law. They wanted to go back to square one.

This is truly bureaucracy at its worst. It has literally taken twice as long to go from Congressional approval to construction of a World War II memorial than it did to fight and win World War II in the first place.

Once again, it is up to Congress to get the job done and save the memorial from what an article in the Washington Post called “A bureaucratic form of double jeopardy.”

A New York Times article recently quoted the Chairman of the National Capital Planning Commission as favoring Congressional action to “clarify the issue and moot the question by saying the Commission’s actions were in fact valid.”

H.R. 1696 does exactly that. It states that the memorial has met all legal requirements and that construction should begin expeditiously. This legislation has the support of virtually every service organization in the country, and I strongly urge my colleagues to vote for the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be joining with the Chairman of the Committee on Armed Services and the former chairman of the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, my good friend, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP). I am glad to have him back working on veterans’ issues, if just for one day.

This measure, H.R. 1696, will expedite the construction of the new national World War II memorial in the District of Columbia. I commend my friend from Arizona for his leadership on this issue and am honored to manage this measure with him. The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) is one of the heroes of World War II. Mr. Speaker, to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STUMP) and the other members of his generation, we all say thank you for your service and sacrifice; it is time to build a memorial to honor your actions.

Mr. Speaker, a national World War II memorial will honor all Americans

who served in the Armed Forces during World War II, as well as the millions of other Americans who contributed in countless ways to the war effort.

Mr. Speaker, the time to construct this memorial is now. More than 50 years after the end of World War II, there does not exist in our Nation’s Capital a fitting memorial to the service and sacrifices of millions of Americans who preserved democracy and defeated totalitarianism during World War II. The time to construct this memorial is now.

Mr. Speaker, in a longer statement I will submitting for the record at the end of my statement, I review the history of the World War II memorial. The memorial has been the subject of repeated reviews, hearings, public examinations and official actions. It is time to build this memorial now.

Mr. Speaker, the national World War II memorial will be located between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. Some critics of the memorial argue the memorial would “clutter up an already crowded site.” A prominent memorial to honor those who served and sacrificed, this memorial is not “clutter.” The time to build this memorial is now.

I expect there will always be some opposition to this memorial by its scope, its location and design or by some individual group. Ironically, the right to oppose this amendment was defeated and preserved by those who fought for and defended this country in World War II.

Mr. Speaker, let us expedite the construction of the World War II Memorial, and construct it now.

Mr. Speaker, John Ruskin once said “our duty is to preserve what the past has said for itself, and to say for ourselves what shall be true for the future.” This statement is an appropriate guide for our deliberations today as we consider H.R. 1696, a bill that will expedite the construction of the National World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia.

In 1993, Congress passed legislation authorizing the creation of a National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. President Clinton signed the legislation into law on May 25, 1993. The memorial is intended to honor all who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II. It is also intended to honor the entire nation’s contribution to the war effort. The future National World War II Memorial will be an integral part of the Washington, DC landscape. The memorial will not only appropriately honor and pay tribute to those who sacrificed so much, but will educate future generations to some of the costs of freedom.

Mr. Speaker, 14 years after Congress authorized the construction of this memorial, and six years from the first of 22 public hearings on its site and design, the memorial’s construction remains delayed by a lawsuit filed by a small opposition group and a procedural issue involving the National Capital Planning Commission (NCP), one of the agencies required by law to approve the memorial.

NCP decisions of the past two years, including its approval of the National World War II Memorial, have been placed in question because the former NCP chairman continued to